

## **MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.  
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Chinu Das	- Chair, City Council Member
Harbir Batra	- Community Member
Mary Campbell	- Community Member (Arrived 5:48 p.m.)
Halim Habibi	- Community Member, Alternate Chair
Karen Klein	- SD40 Representative
Jessica Roca-Muncaster	- Community Member
Elaine Su	- Community Member
Kelsi Wall	- Community Member

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Mike Coca	- Community Member
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#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police Department
Oana Capota	- Curator, New Westminster Museum (Arrived 5:48 p.m.)
Claudia Freire	- Housing / Social Planner
Diana McDaniel	- Police Department, Acting Inspector
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the agenda of the November 20, 2019 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be adopted, with the following amendments:*

- *5.3 Newcomers' Festival and Information Fair*
- *5.4 Komagata Maru Motion*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 18, 2019**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the September 18, 2019 Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Sanctuary City Designation**

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the results from the internal stakeholder consultations on the draft Sanctuary City Policy. Ms. Freire noted that consultations had taken place with the Parks and Recreation, Bylaws and Licensing, Engineering Operations, Museum, Fire Rescue and Library departments so far, and that a meeting was still pending with the Human Resources department, so their comments were not reflected in the presentation.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Freire provided the following information:

- The Library does not ask questions about status; however, sometimes a non-profit or other agency runs programs from the Library and they may be required to ask a question related to status because of funding requirements; and,
- The public consultation process would include discussion about the draft policy and examine whether it is in line with community members' needs.

Committee members noted that there are many references to Food Bank cards as an acceptable form of identification; however, to get a Food Bank card, an identity card is needed, which may require revealing immigration status.

Ms. Freire noted that the next step in the process is to hold community and stakeholder consultation, and reviewed the proposed consultation program, which includes a stakeholder workshop and a public open house in early 2020. The open house would be advertised in the paper and through WINS agencies in order to attract community members and people with lived experience.

Committee members noted the following feedback on the public consultation program:

- An online survey or comment period may provide an additional format to give feedback to attending in person, particularly given the topic;
- In order to overcome language barriers when completing surveys, it may be beneficial to ask volunteers at the stakeholder organizations to help people fill them out;
- It would be important to ensure that the open house is a safe space and format, where those attending would feel comfortable and be able to attend without fear of intimidation; and,
- It would be important to make it known that the open house would not be the place to argue the concept or philosophy of the policy.

Ms. Freire reviewed the stakeholder list, which included the WINS LIP members and other regional organizations, and the Committee provided the following suggestions as additions to the list:

- Lions Club and Rotary Club;
- Adult Learning Centre at NWSS;
- JIBC; and,
- StrongStart programs.

Ms. Freire noted that the next step after consultation would be to report back to Council.

## **4.2 Update on Multicultural Festival Working Group**

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, reported that a staff report containing the motion to form a Multicultural Festival review group (from the September 18, 2020 MAC meeting) had been presented to Council at the October 28, 2019 meeting and the recommendation was approved.

Ms. Freire noted that she would be the staff coordinator of the review group and asked for volunteers from the Multiculturalism Committee to take part in the group.

Several Committee members volunteered, depending on the schedule, and it was discussed that it would be best to defer the organization of the group until the next Committee year.

**5.1 Committee Advisory Policy and Volunteer Recruitment**

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, advised the Committee that the City's new Advisory Committee Policy had recently been finalized and discussed how the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee would have input into the composition of the Reconciliation, Inclusion and Social Engagement Committee, which would be formed in 2020.

Ms. Corbett also reminded the members that the Committee volunteer recruitment period was open and the deadline to submit an application was December 2, 2019.

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Corbett noted that the selection process would focus on diversity and inclusion, and all applications would be reviewed by staff and the appointments would be made by Council in January.

**5.2 Update on the Welcome Centre at NWSS**

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, discussed the history and purpose of the Neighbourhood Learning Centres (NLC), which are intended to be dedicated spaces within school buildings to meet community needs.

Ms. Freire noted it has been agreed that a NWSS Learning Centre Advisory Committee would be formed with City staff representation on it, with the aim of establishing a Welcome Centre either at NWSS or within another space in the City.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Das and Ms. Freire provided the following information:

- The intention for the Welcome Centres was to be a place for immigrants to be welcomed and to connect to specific services; however this is being revisited and redefined;
- The NLC Committee would decide and advise on how the space would be used;
- There are many examples of Welcome Centres in the region, including Surrey, where the space is very big and offers many services to the families in the Surrey School District; and,
- A Welcome Centre would be different from a City community centre in that it would not offer recreational services, but rather would be a place of connection and to offer settlement services.

## **5.2 Newcomers' Festival and Information Fair**

Claudia Freire, Housing and Social Planner, informed the Committee that planning for the City's Newcomers' Festival and Information Fair would begin in January 2020, and meeting dates would be sent out through the Committee Clerks. The tentative date for the event is Saturday, April 4.

## **5.3 Komagata Maru Motion**

Councillor Das discussed a letter that had been received by the City on the subject of New Westminster's connection to the Komagata Maru, and informed the Committee that a recommendation had been passed by Council in October requesting staff to bring forward a report discussing the City's connections.

Councillor Das noted that the report would be brought forward for the MAC's information when it becomes available.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

There were no items.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 Letter Received from Imam of Al Nur Mosque, Christchurch New Zealand**

Councillor Das informed the Committee that a letter of thanks had been received by the Imam of Al Nur Mosque, in Christchurch, New Zealand and the letter was read aloud.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Das thanked the Committee members for volunteering their time on the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee and advised that the first meeting of the 2020 Committee would be February 19, 2020.

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed  
**COUNCILLOR CHINU DAS**  
**CHAIR**

Original Signed  
**HEATHER CORBETT**  
**COMMITTEE CLERK**